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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

SOME DRAWING ROOM ODDMENTS.

SOME very clever and original sketches appear from the pen of Mr. W. Timms, the well known contributor to the London Cabinet Maker. We select a few which cannot fail to interest our readers. Ladies it would seem, according to Mr. Timms, never weary of searching for "lovely" brackets and charming screens which it appears to be their greatest joy to gather and accumulate in their boudoirs and drawing-rooms with much more regard to effect than requirement. The appearance of a small drawing-room thoroughly set out with inexpensive painted knick knacks and kickshaws is to the utilitarian and masculine mind not only fantastic but absolutely perplexing and irritating.

But the present questionable mode of economic furnishing does not exactly concern us at present, for the demand for cheap artistic novelties is ever pressing, and accordingly we have set forth on this page a few ideas, all more or less original, which will, perhaps, serve as suggestions for fresh items of such decorative oddments.

In our illustration (Fig. 1), we have drawn upon the still fashionable Anglo-Moresque style for the leading lines of our wall bracket and flap table, whilst at the side of them we have shown a little two-fold screen, which is somewhat Japanese in character. The two first articles would perhaps look best finished in a cream-colored enamel, with gold leather paper at the back of the bracket, and the screen might perhaps be produced in a bronze. The panels of this we have intended to be of painted Japanese silk with a deeper colored border. The transparent painted silk panels are dainty in coloring and very effective, and whilst they are also remarkably cheap, they make a pleasant change from the recently much used French cretonnes. These can be purchased at almost any of the large Oriental houses.

In small boudoirs and drawing-rooms large cabinets are, of course, a mistake, and the low priced small ones—until quite lately—were far too ordinary in outline and general effect to be agreeable. There has, however, recently been brought into vogue a species of decorative furniture which might also be described as a substitute for the cabinet—such an article is that which we illustrate in our sketch (Fig. 2). It is certainly not a small version of what we usually consider a cabinet to be, yet it answers all the purposes of one, and is, to our minds, far more pleasing in appearance than the squarer and orthodox article. The low top with the overhanging shelf above, the side brackets and the curtains, are all of them attractive features which raise the thing above the commonplace class of goods. In point of detail it is refined, and if finished in cream, with gold leather-paper at the back, and pale blue curtains in the front, it would, we are convinced, make a charming little item of drawing room furniture—not only artistic in appearance, but also sufficiently low in price to be popular.

In the next group (Fig. 3) we have shown a quaint little table of a decidedly novel form. Its apparent purpose is for the display of art pottery, but it might also come in useful as a "five o'clock" teatable. Here, too, we have adopted the Moresque style, though not so pronouncedly as before, for we have been careful, in studying the outline, to avoid the now far too hackneyed Moorish cusplings and piercings which one sees on almost every cheap teatable and screen. There is always a demand for novelties in dainty screens, and any piquant fancy or quaint arrangement is sure to be appreciated if it does not work out too expensively. The cheval screen which we show in our sketch is decidedly novel, the completely circular shelf being

a change from the somewhat old-fashioned drop-shelf which has been so long successful. The introduction of this round shelf, though, involved piercing through the screen, but the pretty little curtains at the back could be made to fall right across the opening when the screen is to be used as a protection from the fire. Such a contrivance as this must naturally, at first blush, seem very finical, but it would in all probability find a readier market than would a more precise and regular design. Really, at the present time, it seems hardly possible for such things to be too fanciful or eccentric. This design, though not altogether inelegant, is yet manifestly inconsistent throughout; still, the cusped archway and the certainly perilous shelf with the portiere at the back, are pretty features and novel, and well calculated to captivate the feminine fancy. Cream enamel and rose colored silk would make an appropriate combination for this screen.

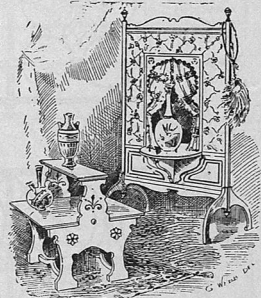


Fig. 3.

The hybrid article which figures in our next sketch is neither a small cabinet nor a table—perhaps it should be rightly called a whatnot. It is designed in the Japanese style, and the sides are intended to be pierced right through in the characteristic manner. At present there are comparatively few substitutes for the old-fashioned low whatnot, and we believe that a variety of some such contrivance as this would be acceptable. The small flower vase stand at the side is decidedly Egyptian in manner, and if produced in black with red lines would be both stylish and effective. The majority

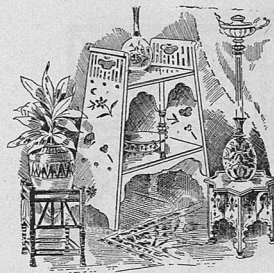


Fig. 4.

of such stands are at present made much taller than this one, though a small arrangement of this description is certainly more useful for heavy vases. In the companion table to the right we have endeavored to utilize the star form for the top, and, as will be seen in our sketch, we have brought out a small bracket to support each alternate angle.

The small pointed wall bracket in the next group (Fig. 5) is intended to hold a staircase lamp, and could be produced in any of the popular art colorings. Below this is shown a simple form of stool—this, it will be seen, is designed upon the form of the old Pompeian seats, and hence it would not be inappropriate if produced in a metallic finish, such as bronze, or even old gold. The mode of bracing the back and front legs together by means of the curved stretcher is elegant and strong, and, altogether, this little stool would make a welcome departure from the cheaper and more fragile types of seats recently made. A wassail table, such as is shown at the side of this, would also be a novelty just now, and, treated in the manner which we indicate, with two small shelves below, would be a useful as well as an attractive little oddment of drawing-room furniture.

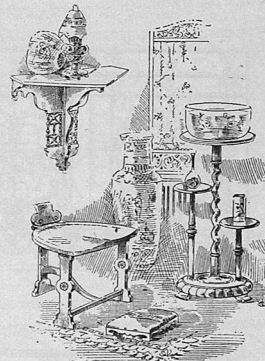


Fig. 5.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.—The current number of this excellent periodical is unusually well filled, and its contents are all valuable and timely.—*Boston Transcript*.

A magazine which has its field to itself, but is so excellent in all its features that it need fear no rival.—*Albany Argus*.

The February DECORATOR AND FURNISHER is what the ladies would call an "elegant" paper. The illustrations are finely executed.—*Brooklyn Union*.

The DECORATOR AND FURNISHER is a most artistic paper, delighting in beautiful illustrations and suggestive articles.—*Fremont (O.) Journal*.